



# The Journal

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May 21, 2015

## Commencement Concludes Busy Week at USUHS



Photo by Andrew Damstedt

**Rear Adm. Forrest Faison, U.S. Navy deputy surgeon general, administers the oath of office to Uniformed University of the Health Sciences' naval graduates. Each service had a surgeon general or deputy surgeon general administer the oath of office to the newly promoted graduates.**

**By Andrew Damstedt**  
**NSAB Public Affairs**  
**staff writer**

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) graduated 346 health care providers at its commencement ceremony held Saturday in Washington, D.C. at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, capping off a busy week for the university which started with its annual Research Days.

"Those of us who have been doing this for decades are counting on you to carry it far into the future and there will undoubtedly be more wars because no generation in my lifetime – no generation in the history of this

country has been spared the burden of defending this nation's freedom," said commencement guest speaker Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas W. Travis, U.S. Air Force surgeon general. "You won't be spared that burden either. There will undoubtedly be more wars and more emergencies around the globe and you'll be the ones that respond."

The 346 graduates were from the university's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing and Postgraduate Dental College.

Travis, a 1986 USUHS graduate, said he knew the university prepared the graduating students to not only advance in their medical careers, but also

in their military careers. Some of Saturday's graduates took part in a promotion ceremony where they also took their respective service's oath of office.

"As an officer, your team will be watching you and looking to you for leadership – especially the young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines you'll serve with – many of whom you outrank and by that measure alone – your rank – you'll be expected to lead," Travis said. "You must be very capable and effective physicians and develop into capable and effective officers."

Rear Adm. Forrest Faison, U.S. Navy deputy surgeon general, who administered the oath of office to the Navy graduates, counseled them to

be worthy of the trust placed in them as physicians and always be worthy of the oath of office they had just taken.

"This is the culmination of everything that I've worked for and, more importantly, the career that I am looking forward to – taking care of all my service members; so I'm really excited, this is just the beginning," said Navy Lt. Steve Lee, who graduated Saturday and is going to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. "I'm just excited to see what else my military career has to offer."

Another graduate, Army Capt. Sam Burns, said he was excited, and "a little nervous" to go on to the next point in his career, which will be at the

Madigan Army Medical Center, Wash.

"It was a lot of hard work, but looking back on it, it went by pretty fast," Burns said of his time at USUHS.

Earlier in the week, the university held Research Days, an annual two-day event where faculty and students shared their research to the wider campus community through lectures and poster displays.

Navy Lt. Sean Simmons, who graduated Saturday, was one of several participants at the poster viewing May 12, where there were approximately 300 posters on display. Standing by his poster, he explained his research

See **GRADUATE** page 10



# Commander's Column

Memorial Day occurs on the last Monday in May and marks the official beginning of the summer vacation season and the 101 Critical Days of Summer. In my previous Commander's Column in April, I provided information and links to a variety of topics related having a safe summer and vacation season. Please remember to travel safely, heed all required safety precautions when doing your leisure activities, and have a wonderful and enjoyable summer with your family and friends.

As the weekend approaches, I ask you to pause and reflect on Memorial Day. Ask yourself, what is it, why do we observe it each year, and what does that mean to me? The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website features an informative history of Memorial Day, and I would like to share some of that information with you.

"Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans, known as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered on the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World



War I; however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day." At that time, it was then also decided that the holiday would occur on the last Monday in May.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Mo-

ment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity". Through their efforts, the country would see and experience commemorations of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. To quote Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada, "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day" (Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website). Please take the time to pause this year, and in the future, at 3 p.m. (1500) on Memorial Day, and observe a moment of silence to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, in service to our nation, so that we may enjoy the freedoms and lifestyle we have today. At the least, we owe our thanks to those who have given all, on our behalf, and we also must remember their families. They too have sacrificed, and deserve our respect and support.

Please have a wonderful, fun, enjoyable, and safe holiday weekend, and keep in mind and honor all those who have made it possible for you to celebrate this holiday.

**All Ahead Flank,  
David A. Bitonti, Capt., DC, USN  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Support Activity Bethesda**

# Bethesda Notebook

## Birth Month Training

Birth month training for Army, Navy and civilian personnel at Walter Reed Bethesda is held every second and fourth Thursday of each month in Clark Auditorium beginning at 8 a.m. Training sessions include personal finance and stress management; sexual harassment; suicide awareness and prevention; customer service; threat awareness and counterintelligence; and drug and alcohol prevention education.

## Employer Network Event

An Employer Network Event is held monthly on the last Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 11 (lower level), Room 16. Attendees will be able to meet with industry representatives, develop professional connections and explore employment opportunities at the event, open to all active duty, family members, veterans, reservists, non-medical attendees, contractors and civilians. No registration is required. For more information, contact Fleet and Family Support Center at 301-319-4087 or email FFSC@med.navy.mil.

## TeamSTEPPS Essential Course

The next TeamSTEPPS (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) Essentials Course is June 2 from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 1 to 2 p.m. The course is for Walter Reed Bethesda staff members who do not engage in the direct delivery of patient care but who wish to contribute essential information with an impact on the ongoing delivery of safe care. For registration, contact Hospital Education and Training at class-registration@health.mil, or call 301-319-5209.

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# WRNMMC Celebrates Navy Nurse Corps' Birthday

**By Bernard S. Little**  
WRNMMC Public  
Affairs staff writer

"One only has to imagine medical care or hospitals without nurses to realize how vital our role within medical care is," said Navy Capt. Sarah L. Martin, a nurse and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) chief of staff. "We're in the hospital setting; we're in the ambulatory setting. In the civilian sector, we're within the inner city, in rural, metropolitan communities, [and] in homes. We're on military posts [and] overseas.

"Wherever the need exists, nurses are working diligently to serve and to protect the health of our people. It is not an easy task."

Martin was guest speaker during the Navy Nurse Corps' 107th birthday celebration May 13 at WRNMMC.

"Nurses work all hours; nurses work long hours," Martin continued. She added they face many adverse conditions, including deployments, separation from families and more.

"Most nurses didn't choose their careers because of the great hours or the working conditions," Martin explained. "As trite as it may sound, most of us entered the profession

of caring to help people in their toughest times.

"There are days when the workload is huge. There are occasions when we can't take all of our patients' nor their families' pain away. There are days when we go home with achy feet, when we go home with achy hearts. But those are the days when we need to be reminded of what we do and why we do what we do," said Martin. "We need to reignite our passion for nursing every day."

One way for nurses to do this is for them to recall their stories, said Martin, who began her Navy military nursing career in 1987 after earning her bachelor's degree in nursing from Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, Minn.

"Telling the stories helps you to remember why you went into the profession, and it also helps you reignite why you want to stay in this profession," Martin continued. She explained these stories could be from a memorable deployment, experiences as a nursing student or a new ensign on the floor, witnessing a nurse role model, a nurse providing compassionate care to a family member, or watching a medical television show.

"Reminisce on these

moments, remember them, write them down, [or] share them verbally. It's important. It will keep you centered as you continue down your road," Martin said.

No medical staff person spends more time with the individual patient than nurses do in the hospital setting, according to Martin.

"In addition to your technical skills, you bring a generous dose of compassion in dealing with patients who are severely ill and not only in need of direct patient care, but also in need of emotional support and encouragement," Martin said.

Martin encouraged nurses to continually study to remain abreast of developments.

"Time constantly changes," she said. "Our job is not stagnant and therefore we must not become stagnant."

"I salute you as you culminate National Nurses Week, and to the Navy nurses, a special Happy 107th Birthday," she concluded.

Navy Lt. Koa Thomas, also a WRNMMC nurse, said, "From their historic beginnings, Navy Nurse Corps officers have increased to approximately 4,200 men and women who currently serve in active and reserve compo-



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Christopher Krucke

## Military's Top Nurses Salute Nurses Week

**Leaders and nurses ceremoniously cut a cake during the opening event for National Nurses Week at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on May 6.**

nents. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants."

Assistant Director of Nursing at WRNMMC, Navy Capt. Carolyn McGee agreed, explaining that in 1908 when Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps, 20 women were selected as the corps' inaugural members and assigned to the Naval Medical School in Washington, D.C. "These nurses eventually became known as 'The Sacred Twenty.'"

One of The Sacred Twenty, Lenah Sutcliffe

Higbee, became the second superintendent of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, a position she held during World War I. She also became the first female recipient of the Navy Cross. The USS Higbee (DD-806), commissioned in 1945, was named after her, and it was the first U.S. Navy combat warship to bear the name of a female member of the U.S. Navy.

"[Her] story is only one of many of service, accomplishment and devotion to duty," McGee said. "Today, as we celebrate the proud

legacy of all military nurses, we also celebrate those who serve now, and those who will bring the Nurse Corps into the future serving in times of war as well as peace."

"We can all agree the Navy needs innovative and bold men and women to lead, think critically, challenge assumptions and take well-calculated risks. Our nurse corps continues to follow suit and takes pride in sustaining leaders that reflect our very best," Thomas concluded.

# New Department Seeks to Continue Enhancing Patient Experience

**By Sarah Marshall**  
WRNMMC Public  
Affairs writer

A new department at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) will allow specialized nurses to focus more strategically on ensuring quality patient care and ethical practices.

The Inpatient Clinical Education Department was announced May 15 by Col. Ray Antoine, director of Nursing, during an All Nurses Call. The new department brings together the expertise of several Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), who are licensed registered

nurses with advanced degrees (master's or doctorate), also specializing in various skill sets, such as direct patient care, ethical decision making, and performance improvement, he said.

Previously, these clinical nurse experts were aligned with separate units or departments throughout the medical center, Antoine said, but bringing them together capitalizes on their talents.

"We can use them to help get where we need to go as it relates to quality and ethical practice," he said.

The department will research evidence-based

practices and ensure the best practices are translated at the bedside, explained Army Lt. Col. Cheryl Creamer, chief of the new department. She added that they'll look at evidence to see what's appropriate, and ensure standardization of these practices throughout the hospital.

"They will divide and conquer to help us move forward," said Creamer. "They will improve quality. We will look across the scope of what we're doing to make sure we're doing the right thing every single time."

See PATIENT page 5



Photo by Sarah Marshall

**The new Inpatient Clinical Education Department, with Director of Nursing Army Col. Ray Antoine (rear right) will focus on ensuring quality patient care and ethical practices.**



# Military Spouse Appreciation Day

**MC3 Hank Gettys**  
**NSAB Public Affairs**  
**staff writer**

Representatives from Naval Support Activity Bethesda's (NSAB) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) helped celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 15.

"Military Spouse Appreciation Day originated in the U.S. in 1984, created by President Ronald Reagan," said De-dra Anderson, FFSC employment specialist and coordinator of the effort. "He wanted to raise awareness of how spousal commitment can help military personnel get through their worst times."

To show their appreciation, the FFSC provided military spouses with some tokens of gratitude.

"We set up a table at the NEX and we gave away cupcakes, candy and bubble gum to military spouses," Anderson said. "Just some sweet treats for our sweet spouses."

Though military spouses haven't sworn an oath like their significant others, that doesn't mean they aren't sacrificing and helping to serve our country, according to Anderson.

"I think it would impossible to put into words how much we and the military cherish and respect our military spouses," said Anderson. "They didn't

raise their right hands and swear to protect and defend our Constitution, but they are still serving and enthusiastic, and their contributions are very valued."

For military members, staying balanced and well-organized is a must, and military spouses can help bring that stability home.

"For me, the spouse keeps the home balanced, the family finances, they coach t-ball, they help with homework, and sometimes they hold a full-time job as well," said Anderson. "To me, they are professional jugglers and they stand behind the service members and they prove on a daily basis that you do not need to put on a uniform to serve."

"I thank and support their loyalty and commitment and that's why we celebrate them; thank you to all military spouses."

Anderson felt the event was a success, and hopes to continue putting an emphasis on this celebration.

"I think it went really, really well," she said. "We were set up there from 10-2, and we brought 120 cupcakes, and we gave away all but four. I think the fair went well, and I hope next year we are able to hold a bigger event."

According to Anderson, the FFSC supports military members, spouses and their families in all the different phases and challenges of military life.



Photo by MC3 Hank Gettys

**Representatives from Naval Support Activity Bethesda's (NSAB) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) helped celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day by giving out cupcakes and candy to military spouses at the NEX on NSAB May 15.**

Some of their programs include:

- Command Training Support
- Clinical Counseling
- Crisis Response
- Deployment/IA Support
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)
- Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP)
- Family Advocacy Program
- Financial--Personal Financial Planning (PFM)
- Information and Referral
- Life Skills Education
- Navy Gold Star Program

- New Parent Support (NPSP)
  - Ombudsman Training and Support
  - Outreach Services
  - Relocation Assistance Program (RAP)
  - School Liaison Officer (SLO)
  - Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)
  - Transition and Employment Services
- The office, located on Bldg. 11's first floor, operates from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and can be reached by phone at 301-319-4087 or by email at [usn.bethesda.nsab@ethesda.mil](mailto:usn.bethesda.nsab@ethesda.mil).

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# NAVFAC Celebrates Public Works Week

**By Don Rochon**  
**Naval Facilities**  
**Engineering**  
**Command**  
**Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON (NNS) - Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) public works professionals began celebrating National Public Works Week May 17.

National Public Works Week, which runs through May 23 this year, started in 1960 as part of a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The week-long event seeks to raise the public's awareness about public works issues and employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations. This year's theme is "Community Begins Here."

"Our public works

teams represent our installation communities, and characterize the commitment and support that NAVFAC provides to all Navy and Marine Corps bases," said NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Kate Gregory. "These teams of Civil Engineer Corps officers, NAVFAC civilians, and contractor partners work tirelessly in support of the installations they serve."

NAVFAC Washington Commanding Officer Capt. Tony Edmonds expressed his thanks in an email to the NAVFAC Team Washington for their work maintaining the installations in Naval District Washington.

"Our Nation's military infrastructure and readiness depends on you, and the expertise and dedicated service of our entire team of facilities and public work professionals," Edmonds wrote in his email. "Whether it's our

grounds, roads or runways; our water, steam or electrical distribution lines; or our multitude of buildings and facilities, you have a critical role in keeping them ready and able to support the military missions on our installations."

NAVFAC has provided management and leadership of Navy public works for more than 170 years. As the Navy's public

works officers, Civil Engineer Corps officers lead Navy and Marine Corps public works departments (PWD) around the globe in providing comprehensive shore installation facility engineering, acquisition, environmental, and transportation services.

A lot of this essential work goes unnoticed,

See **WORKS** page 10



**Department (PWD) Bethesda, Lt. j.g. Daniel Syzdek, NSAB's PWD Bethesda construction manager and Mike Kfoury, Allied Well Drilling stand by building 11 while a rig drills a 500-foot well for a ground source heat pump consisting of 63 geothermal wells.**

Courtesy Photo

(Left to right) Keith Edwards, Engineering Technician for Naval Support Activity Bethesda's (NSAB) Public Works

## PATIENT

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Regardless of their specific talents, their skill sets can be used across the organization, according to Creamer. They'll be able to provide expert guidance and coaching, consultation, research, collaboration, leadership, and assist with ethical decision making, she said.

Additionally, these clinical experts have three main spheres of influence: (1) patient and family, (2) nursing personnel, and (3) the organization, explained Navy Capt. Carolyn McGee, deputy director of nursing.

"They're researchers, collaborators, educators and communicators, and will work to continuously improve quality and the patient experience," McGee said. "We're very excited to pull them together as a group, so we can capitalize on their collective talents."

She added that the new department is the first within the Defense

Health Agency to implement this model.

"I'm very excited to see we're setting a new standard for military health care," she said. "I'm excited to see what they're going to do ... I know they're going to do great things."

The new Inpatient Clinical Education department includes specialized nurses with various backgrounds, several of whom have worked in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Oncology and with wound care and geriatrics.

As the department's members were introduced during the recent All Nurses Call, each expressed that they look forward to assisting their colleagues. Among those, Lt. Cmdr. Frank Jones, an adult gerontologist CNS, noted, "I'm happy the command leadership is supportive of this model."

Antoine concluded the All Nurses Call, expressing his appreciation for all nurses at WRNMMC: "I'm proud of what you do each and every day. I'm proud of the way you represent."



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# WRNMMC Hosts Annual Ethics Symposium

By Bernard S. Little  
WRNMMC Public  
Affairs staff writer

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) hosted the Annual Healthcare Ethics Symposium May 13-14.

The two-day event focused on "Ethical Challenges in Medicine," and touched on sensitive and controversial issues, such as "Physician Aid in Dying," "The Metaphysics of Death and Dying," "Cultural Issues in End-of-Life Clinical Decisions," "Clinical Ethics Implications of Ebola Virus Disease," and "Research Ethics and Infectious Diseases."

The symposium builds on a long-standing tradition of ethical reflection and instruction started at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical

Center, the predecessors of WRNMMC, explained event organizers, Army Maj. (Dr.) Robert J. Walter and Army Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Pratel, Sr.

Walter chairs the WRNMMC Ethics Committee and is director of the National Capital Area Regional Healthcare Ethics Consortium. Pratel is a bioethicist at WRNMMC in the Department of Pastoral Care.

"This is a significant event, as our ethics education efforts here at WRNMMC account for over half of ethics education events in the Department of Defense," stated Pratel, project officer for the event.

According to Walter and Pratel, the symposium "targets ideas and raises awareness on leading and enduring ethical challenges and is designed to increase

competence when addressing the myriad of unique ethical issues military medical professionals and providers encounter."

In discussing "Physician Aid in Dying: A Survey of the National Landscape," Dr. Sara Goldkind, a research and clinical bioethics consultant who is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Medicine at George Washington University and a member of the WRNMMC Clinical Ethics Committee, concluded that this is a controversial topic with a number of "competing forces." She mentioned right-to-life forces versus right-to-liberty forces (self-determination and right to privacy).

"Regardless of the legality of physician aid-in-dying, our call is to continue caring for our patients during their



Courtesy Photo

end-of-life challenges," Goldkind stated.

Navy Cmdr. Theo Stokes, associate program director for the National Capital Consortium Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship, shared similar sentiments when discussing "Caring for Families when their Baby is Dying."

"Respect autonomy and use your expertise and power to provide care that is beneficent, non-maleficent, and just," he concluded.

Dr. Jennifer Walter, who has worked at the intersection of clinical practice and bioethics and is currently researching facilitating and improving communication between the health care team and families of children with chronic and terminal illness, discussed "Cultural issues in End-of-Life Clinical Decisions." The assistant professor of Pediatrics and Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Walter explained how different groups handle end-of-life issues.

"End-of-life issues are where both religion and culture have some of their greatest impact," Walter stated. "As a consequence, sensitivity and attention to both the patient's/family's religious and cultural traditions and to those of the clinical team are crucial for adequate end-of-life care."

Dr. James J. Walter, also a bioethicist, closed out the first day of the symposium discussing a similar topic, "Religious

Sensitivity in End-of-Life Issues."

Dr. Alexander A. Kon, chief of pediatric critical care medicine and medical director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Naval Medical Center San Diego and a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine, began the second day of the symposium addressing the "Clinical Ethics Implications of Ebola Virus Disease."

He discussed the history of contagion outbreaks, going back to the Black Death between 1347 and 1351 when one-third of Europe's population died and some doctors cared for patients while many fled. In 1918 during the influenza pandemic, millions died worldwide while physicians, nurses and medical students were very involved in the care of the diseased victims. During the 1980s, "many doctors refused to care for AIDS patients citing personal risk," Kon explained.

He added that there's longstanding precedent to limit or even withhold interventions if providing treatment places the providers at too great risk, but there's also "longstanding tradition of doctors, nurses, and others taking significant personal risk for the benefit of their patients, which may be even more apparent in military medicine."

He cited military patients treated with retained, unexploded ordnances, as well as contaminated patients (chemical and/or bio-

logical) treated after decontamination. In addition, the U.S. military does not support withholding treatment on the basis of risk to providers/staff.

Like with HIV/AIDS, these are similar issues of the current Ebola debate, Kon stated.

Army Col. Peter J. Weina, Ph.D., WRNMMC chief of research programs, addressed "Research Ethics and Infectious Diseases."

"Some of our greatest mistakes and greatest advances in human subjects' protection have come from the ethical issues surrounding infectious disease research," Weina stated. An example would be the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, conducted for 40 years between 1932 and 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service to study the natural progression of untreated syphilis in rural African-American men in Alabama, he said.

Weina explained that the field of ethics came into its own within the last four to five decades when advances in technology forced moral dilemmas. For example, "Development of elaborate life sustaining technologies made the question of euthanasia more urgent, [and the] birth of bioethics also closely related to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s [impacting the Tuskegee experiment]."

"How will what we do today be judged in retrospect?" Weina asked.

The Fall Medical Ethics Short Course at WRNMMC is scheduled for Oct. 19-22. Some of the topics scheduled to be addressed include ethical issues in pediatric medicine, spirituality in health care, ethics in gender/sexuality issues, and determining decision making capacity. For more information, visit <http://www.wrnmmc.capmed.mil/Conferences/MedicalEthics/Ethics.aspx>.



Courtesy Steve Northrup

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# NSA Bethesda: From the Deckplates

## What does being a public works professional mean to you?



It's just really an honor having a hand in supporting and bettering the quality of life for our soldiers and their families and also to be part of group that's committed to that overall mission.

- Christopher Moore,  
program analyst



It means being a problem solver, thinking forward about design, construction and maintenance of our base facility and infrastructure, which support our military community.

- Lt. Michelle Caponigro,  
supervisory construction manager



It means that I get an opportunity to use my unique skill set to help the tenants of the base meet their mission and to meet challenges on a daily basis that when solved better allow the base to meet its mission.

- Lt. j.g. Dylan Burns,  
construction manager



I absolutely enjoy working for the NAVFAC Public Works Department because I know that the work I execute on a daily basis directly impacts the quality of life for our country's wounded warriors, service members, [Department of Defense] civilians and their family members.

- Michelle Kilosky,  
facility operations specialist



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To those who were vigilant so we could rest,  
Who gave everything that we might thrive,  
Who are silent that we may breathe free,  
  
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MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25



# GRADUATE

Continued from pg. 1

looked at whether it would be beneficial to integrate medical students into Wounded Warrior programs, such as the art therapy or adaptive sports programs.

Already, some themes are emerging from the research, such as the medical students gaining an increased perspective and a greater sense of responsibility, as well having more confidence to approach Wounded Warriors, he said.

“It can be a daunting thing if you’re a full, able-body person who doesn’t have a whole lot of military experience to suddenly go up to someone that’s been wounded in battle and has experiences you can’t really relate to that easily,” Simmons said. “So you have a lot of people overcome that initial feeling of discomfort.”

Ultimately, Simmons said he’d like to see this program be added the university’s curriculum.

Lt. Lisa Herrington, who graduated Saturday, had a research poster about pediatric dyslipidemia screening in children. Herrington and her fellow researchers were looking to find out why screening of children was low even with the rise of overweight and obese children.

“We know now that physician screening of kids is extremely low,” she said. “No matter what risk factors they have, all kids (ages) 9 to 11 should get one lipid screening test and only 4 percent

are right now. Hopefully that number can increase so we can identify those kids who need treatment for their high cholesterol.”

Dr. Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health (NIH) director, gave the keynote speech at Research Days where he outlined some research opportunities in biomedical research.

“The opportunities to ask and answer questions that we really didn’t quite even know how to pose a decade ago are now in front of us,” Collins said. “We have the chance to take apart mysteries about how life works and how disease occurs at a phenomenal pace that I would not have really imagined possible in my own career 10 years ago.”

Some of those opportunities include developing biochips to determine a drug’s effectiveness that could eliminate the animal testing phase, he said, and finding ways to repurpose drugs that had failed in human clinical trials to cure one disease, but might be helpful in fighting a separate disease. One such example was a drug originally designed to treat cancer, which failed in clinical trials, but is now being looked at as a possible treatment for Alzheimer’s disease, he said.

“No drug company can know what all of their drugs in the freezer might do, but if we put all the companies together and all of the bright brains on the planet to think about those repurposing opportunities, we may have more opportunities like the one I just told you about for Alzheimer’s disease,” Collins said.

# WORKS

Continued from pg. 5

but the behind-the-scenes effort performed in providing vital public works services such as electricity, water, and wastewater management is a central enabler for a lot of what happens on Navy and Marine Corps bases worldwide.

In fact, last year, NAVFAC PWDs helped keep naval facilities and infrastructure around the world well-maintained and managed, as more than 461,000 service calls and 54,000 emergency calls were recorded and completed in 2014.

NAVFAC’s public works professionals are also at the forefront of executing cutting-edge energy projects for the Navy to help meet the Secretary of the Navy’s energy goals. Advanced

metering, renewable energy, and residential energy conservation projects are helping to reduce the demand for energy, on and off base.

“Every day our Sailors and Marines experience first-hand the delivery of our public works services,” said David Curfman, NAVFAC Public Works director. “Whether we’re inspecting a submarine pier, constructing a new runway, fixing a hangar roof leak, or cleaning up an oil spill, NAVFAC Public Works Departments are there. We’re really blessed to have such a renowned team.”

“However, many times we’re behind the scenes planning for future missions,” Curfman added. “We’re making sure the buildings are heated in the winter, designing new Child Development Centers, providing preventive maintenance, protecting endangered species, and operating our solar arrays to provide long-term, environmentally friendly, renewable power.”

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# MILITARY APPRECIATION

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